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TOM REILLY
JORDIE BELLAIRE
G.I. JOE
image
#02

ENERGON UNIVERSE

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G.I. JOE

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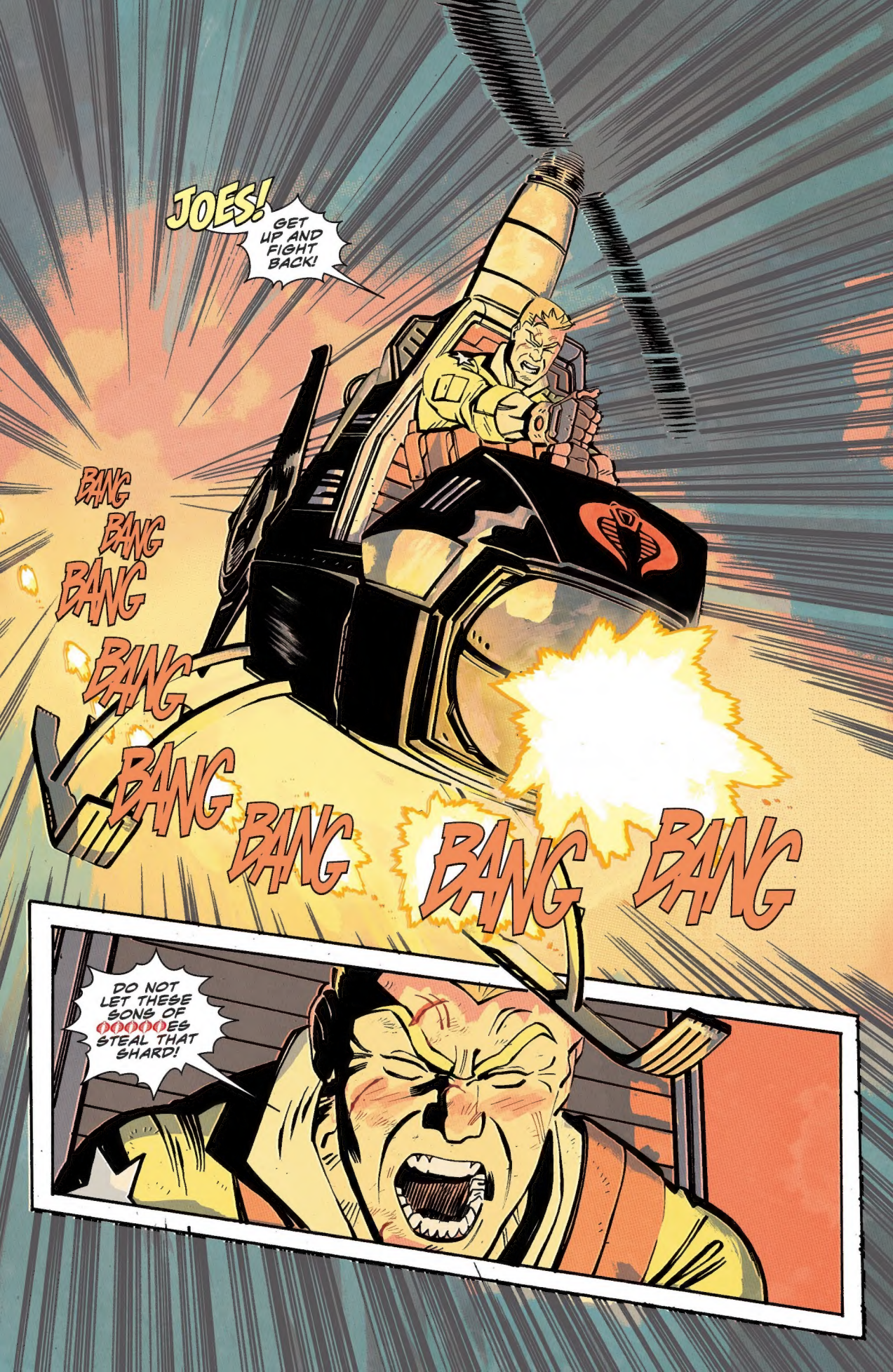
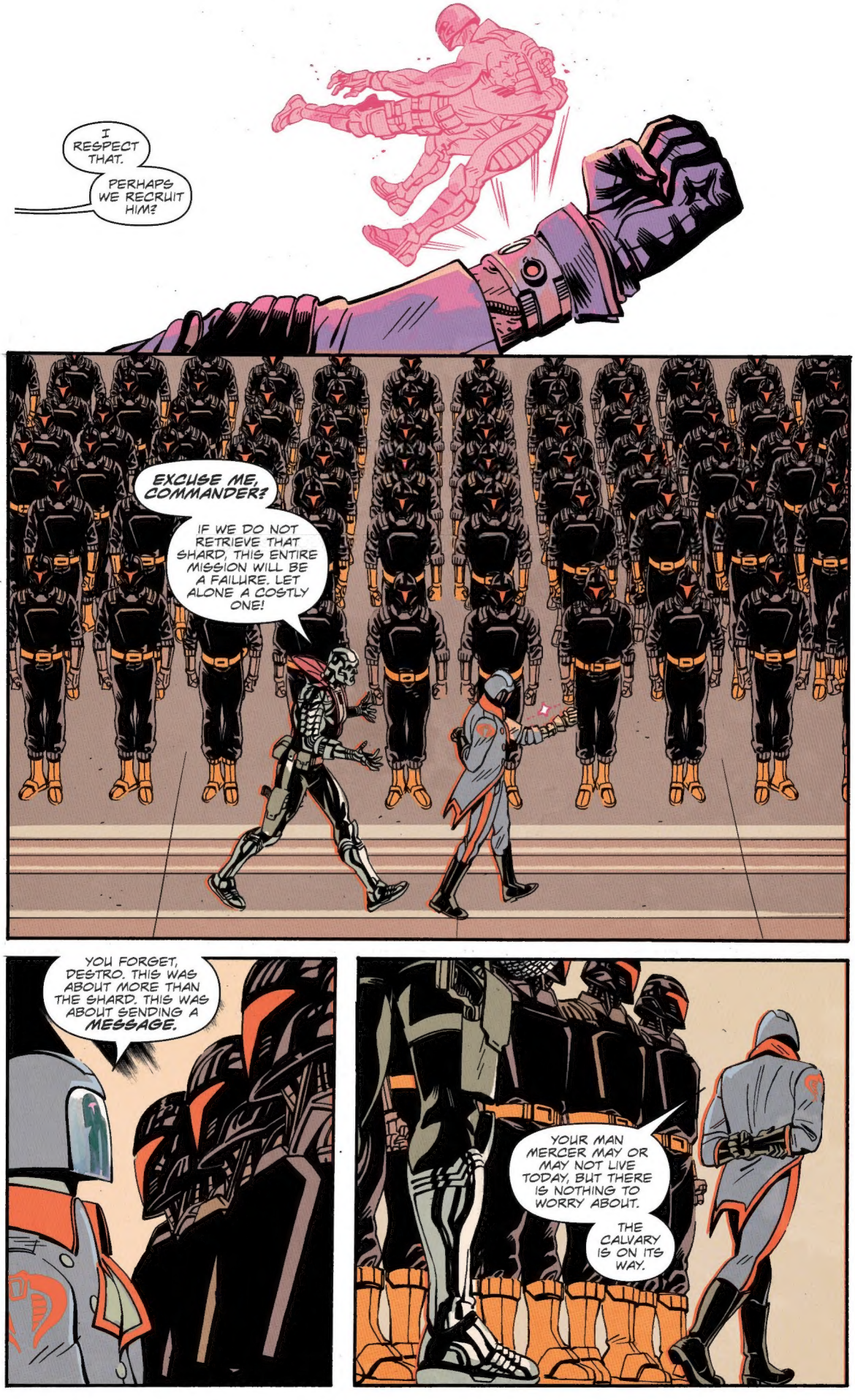
ROCK 'N ROLL, NO!
COVER GIRL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WE HAVE TO HELP HIM!
DON'T THINK I WON'T SHOOT A WOMAN IN THE FACE.
EVEN ONE AS PRETTY AS YOURS.
GO BACK AND LOAD THAT ENERGON TECH FOR MY PEOPLE, LADY.
BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG
SPT
WHAT THE #*$@?!


JOES!
GET UP AND FIGHT BACK!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
DO NOT LET THESE SONS OF @@@@@ES STEAL THAT SHARD!

I HATE THIS GUY.
RETURN FIRE!
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
S#*%!
TZZ
TZZ
TZZ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW, YOU MANIAC?
GOOD RIDDANCE...
"THIS DUKE.
"EVEN IN THE FACE OF A FALLEN FRIEND, HE KEEPS HIS EYE ON THE MISSION."
AAAAHHHH!!!


I RESPECT THAT.
PERHAPS WE RECRUIT HIM?
EXCUSE ME, COMMANDER?
IF WE DO NOT RETRIEVE THAT SHARD, THIS ENTIRE MISSION WILL BE A FAILURE. LET ALONE A COSTLY ONE!
YOU FORGET, DESTRO. THIS WAS ABOUT MORE THAN THE SHARD. THIS WAS ABOUT SENDING A MESSAGE.
YOUR MAN MERCER MAY OR MAY NOT LIVE TODAY, BUT THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
THE CALVARY IS ON ITS WAY.

"MY OWN PERSONAL GUARDS.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING THAT SHARD!
"TO ENSURE THE FEAR OF COBRA..."
DAMMIT!
KRAK!
"...BEGINS TO INFECT ANYONE WHO DARE TO CHALLENGE US."
I KNOW YOU...
ZAP
WHAT...?

ZAP

ZAP

THEY... THEY'RE SHOOTING THE WOUNDED.

THAT'S WHAT **VALKYRIES** DO, NUMBNUTS!

THEY SEND THE WOUNDED ON THE BATTLEFIELD TO **VALHALLA.**

STALKER...

=UGHHH= JUST GIMMIE A SECOND...

KLK

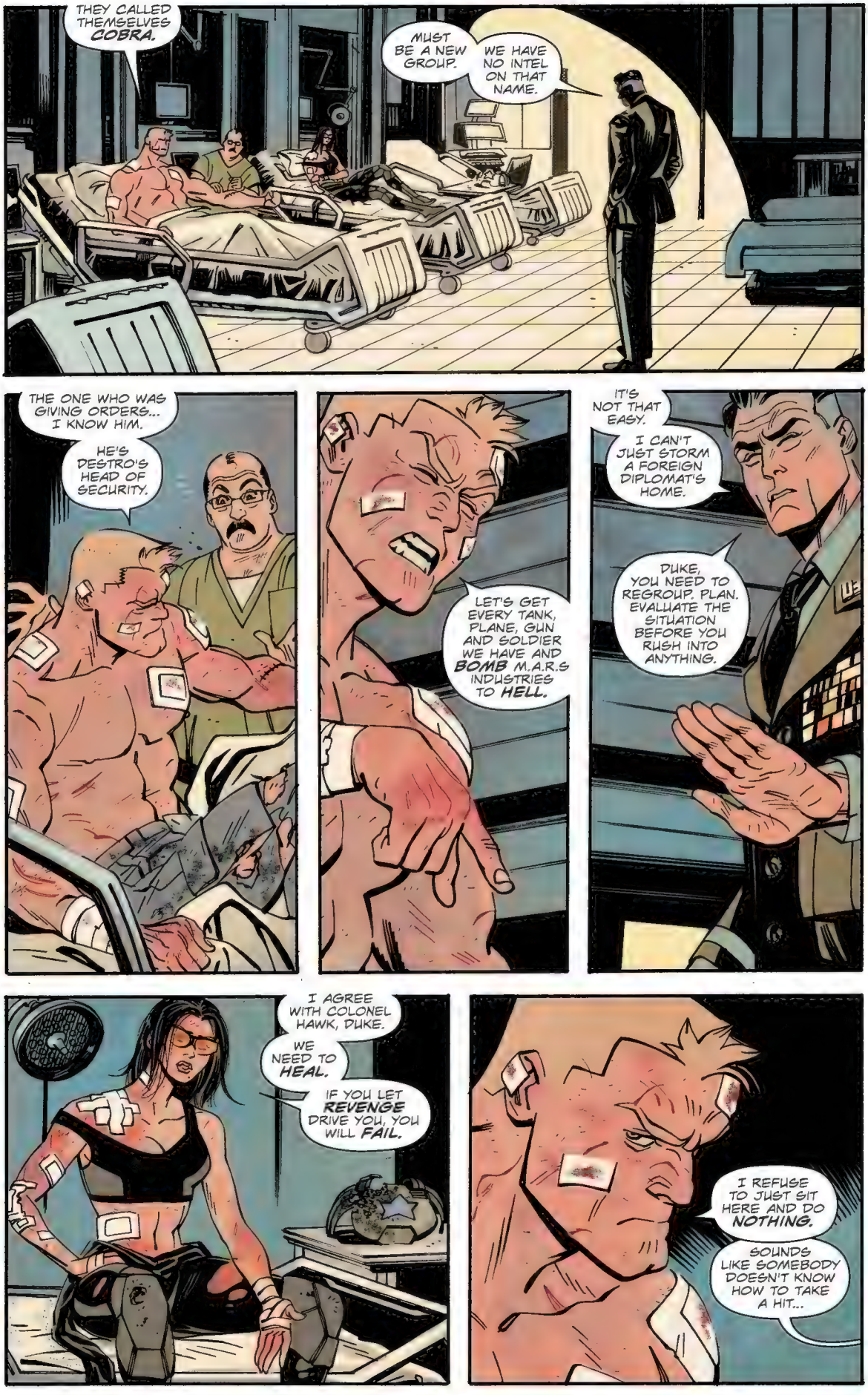
AND I'LL BE BACK TO FIGHTING STRENGTH.

THUK!
I KNEW WORKING WITH YOU WAS GOING TO GET ME KILLED!
KRAK!
BANG!
BANG!
BANG!
STOP MESSING AROUND, DUKE, AND FINISH THE MISSION!
SCREW THE MISSION! WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF OUR PEOPLE FIRST!
IT'S OURS!
I'LL BE DAMNED...

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, YOU BASTARDS?!
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
WE CANNOT ALLOW THEM TO HAVE ANY OF OUR WEAPONS.
AGREED.
YOUR WEAPON DESIGN WAS EXQUISITE, BUT MISSING SOMETHING I FELT NECESSARY.
BEEP.
OUTTA JUICE THAT FAST?
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEP
R
GO, GO, GO! GET TO THE ROOF!
OH CRAP!
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

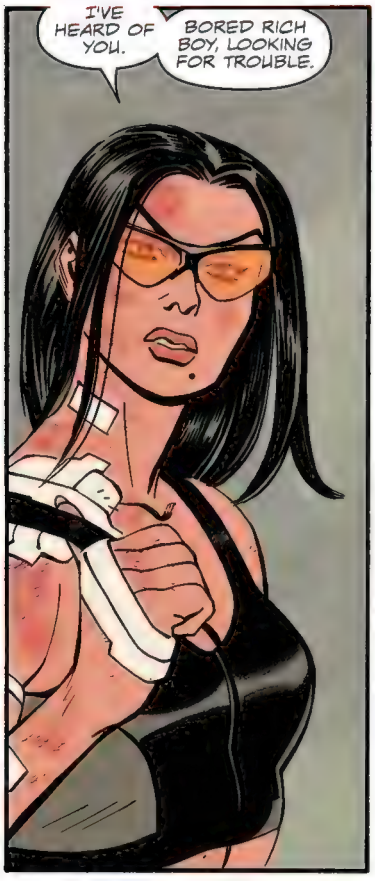
BOOM!

"SERGEANT CRAIG MCCONELL...KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY PROTECTING HIS TEAM.
"STALKER IS IN SURGERY. THE DOCS SAID HE'LL MAKE IT, BUT HIS INJURIES ARE SERIOUS, AND HE WON'T BE IN THE FIELD FOR SOME TIME.
"COVER GIRL GOT BURNS FROM WHATEVER THOSE LASERS WERE. OUR PEOPLE HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
"CLUTCH IS MISSING, PRESUMED DEAD. WE'LL KNOW MORE ONCE WE CLEAR THE RUBBLE."
THE REST OF YOU WERE LUCKY TO MAKE IT BACK TO THE PIT AT ALL...


THEY CALLED THEMSELVES COBRA.
MUST BE A NEW GROUP.
WE HAVE NO INTEL ON THAT NAME.
THE ONE WHO WAS GIVING ORDERS... I KNOW HIM.
HE'S DESTRO'S HEAD OF SECURITY.
LET'S GET EVERY TANK, PLANE, GUN AND SOLDIER WE HAVE AND BOMB M.A.R.S INDUSTRIES TO HELL.
IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
I CAN'T JUST STORM A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT'S HOME.
DUKE, YOU NEED TO REGROUP. PLAN. EVALUATE THE SITUATION BEFORE YOU RUSH INTO ANYTHING.
I AGREE WITH COLONEL HAWK, DUKE.
WE NEED TO HEAL.
IF YOU LET REVENGE DRIVE YOU, YOU WILL FAIL.
I REFUSE TO JUST SIT HERE AND DO NOTHING.
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO TAKE A HIT...

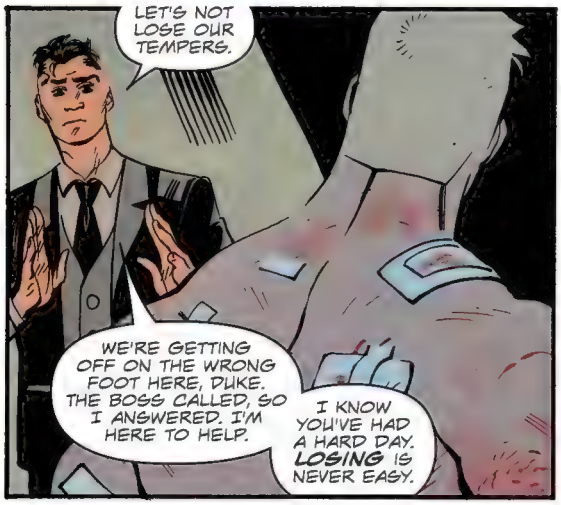
IT'S ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THEY TEACH YOU IN THE CAGE.
THAT IF YOU WANT TO WIN, YOU HAVE TO NOT BE AFRAID OF GETTING PUNCHED IN THE FACE A FEW TIMES.
WHO THE HELL IS THIS?
THANKS FOR ANSWERING MY CALL.
ANYTHING FOR YOU, COLONEL.
DUKE, BARONESS.
THIS IS GUERRERO LA CAZA...
CODE NAME: RISK.

"JOINED THE C.I.A. AFTER SOME TIME IN THE AIR FORCE. CAGE FIGHTER IN HIS SPARE TIME.
"USED TO BE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR DANGEROUS MISSIONS BEFORE HE ENTERED THE FIELD HIMSELF.
"SPENT SOME TIME OVERSEAS TRACKING DOWN DIFFERENT ARMS DEALERS."


I'VE HEARD OF YOU.
BORED RICH BOY, LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.

YOU'RE ONE TO *TALK*, LOVE.
WERE ALL THE SEXY LIBRARIAN POSITIONS FILLED, AND THAT'S WHY YOU TURNED TO A LIFE OF CRIME?

SIR...
I ASKED RISK TO JOIN US. WE *NEED* HIM.
WITHOUT TALKING TO ME ABOUT IT?


LET'S NOT LOSE OUR TEMPERS.
WE'RE GETTING OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT HERE, DUKE. THE BOSS CALLED, SO I ANSWERED. I'M HERE TO HELP.
I KNOW YOU'VE HAD A HARD DAY. *LOSING* IS NEVER EASY.

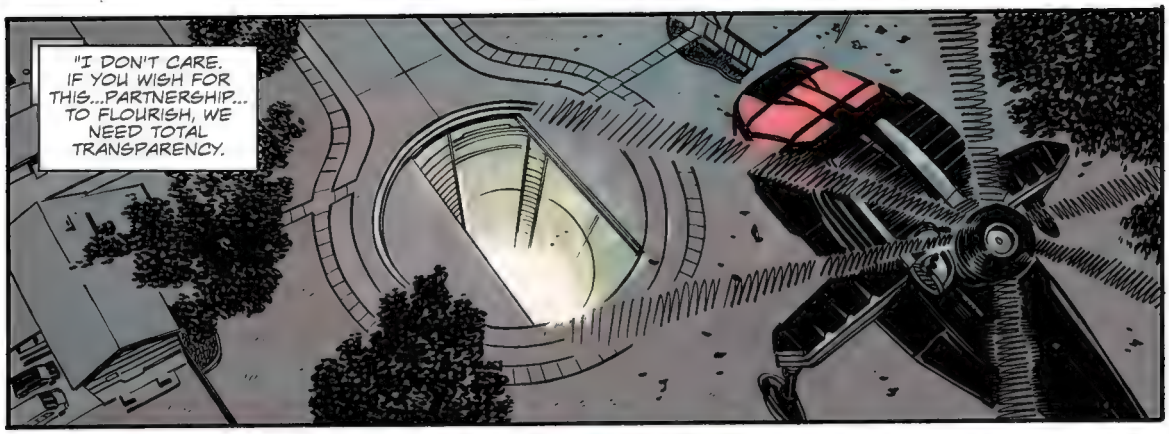
AND I'M SURE *HEAVY METAL* WAS A HELL OF A SOLDIER.

HIS NAME WAS ROCK 'N ROLL!
KRAK!

CONRAD!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING?
IT'S OKAY, ITS OKAY...

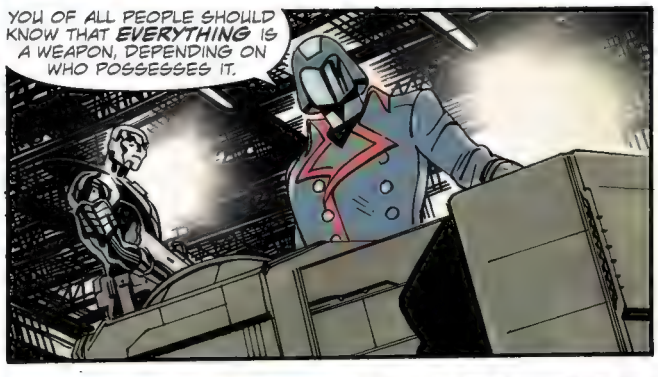
THE BOY SCOUT WANTS TO LOSE AGAIN!
"DO NOT KEEP SECRETS FROM ME LIKE THAT EVER AGAIN, COMMANDER."

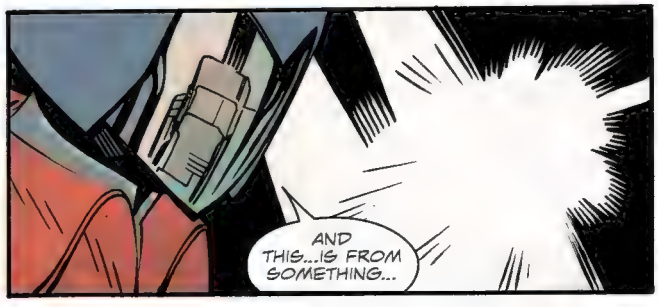
"MY SECRET ASSURED OUR SUCCESS, DESTRO."
Welcome to
SPRINGFIELD
A Nice Little Town


"I DON'T CARE. IF YOU WISH FOR THIS...PARTNERSHIP... TO FLOURISH, WE NEED TOTAL TRANSPARENCY.

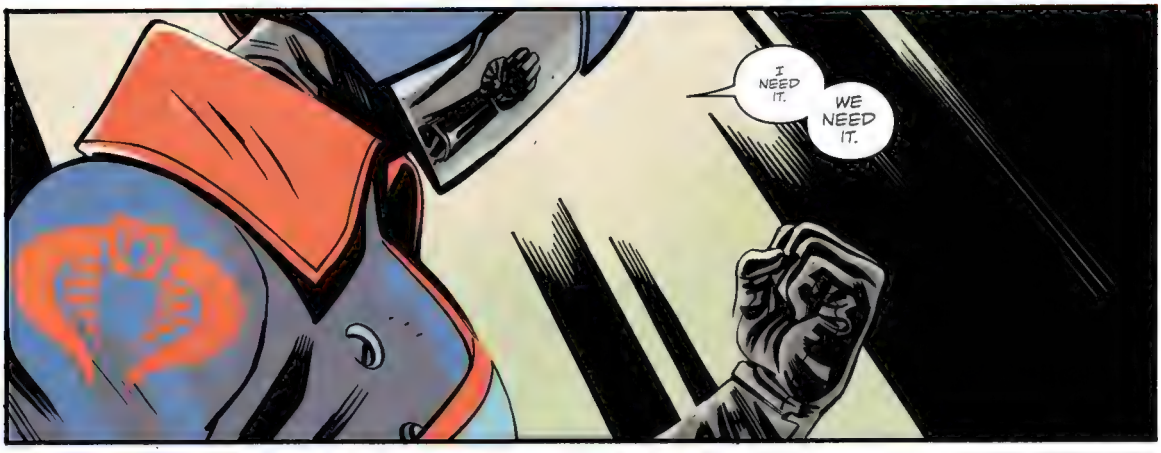
"LIKE THIS TECHNOLOGY? WHERE IS IT FROM?"

HOW IS IT A WEAPON WE CAN USE?


YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT EVERYTHING IS A WEAPON, DEPENDING ON WHO POSSESSES IT.

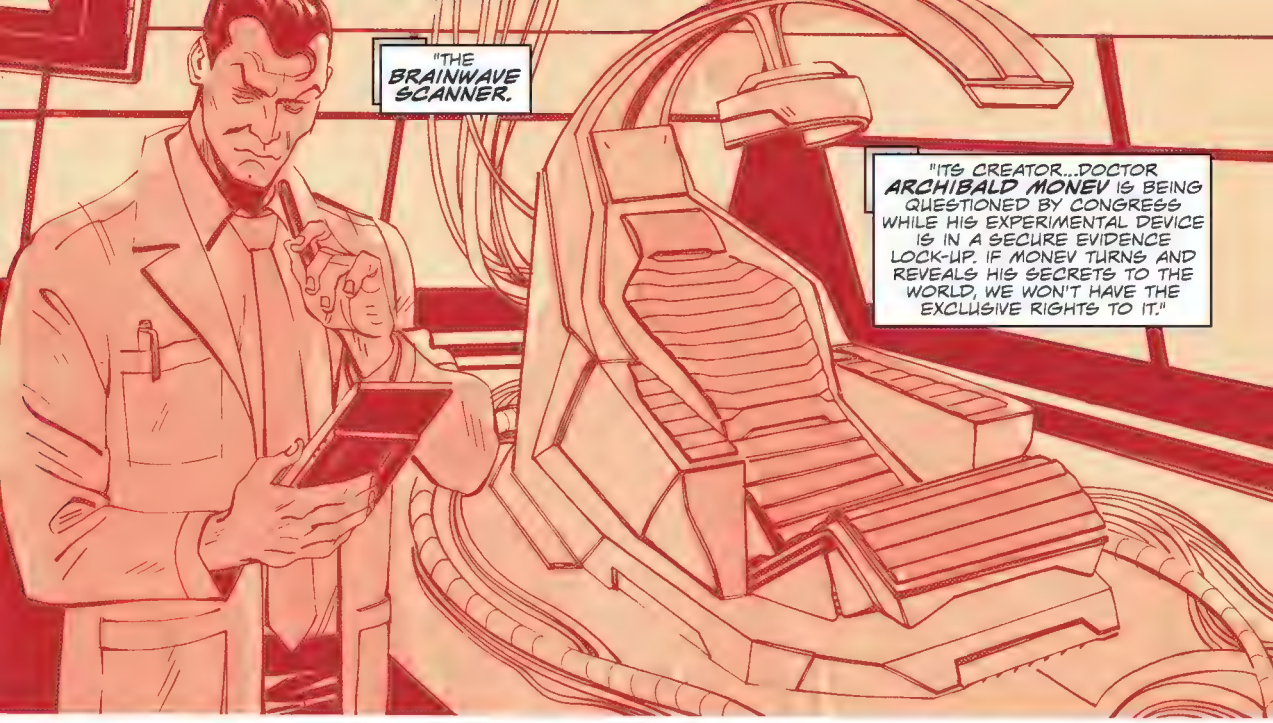

AND THIS...IS FROM SOMETHING...

FROM BEFORE... OUR TIME TOGETHER.


I NEED IT.
WE NEED IT.

BUT THIS IS JUST PART OF OUR PLANS...

INDEED.
WHILE OUR ENEMIES' BACKS ARE TO THE WALL, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ACT FAST TO RETRIEVE THE NEXT PIECE OF YOUR DESIGN.


"THE BRAINWAVE SCANNER.
"ITS CREATOR...DOCTOR ARCHIBALD MONEV IS BEING QUESTIONED BY CONGRESS WHILE HIS EXPERIMENTAL DEVICE IS IN A SECURE EVIDENCE LOCK-UP. IF MONEV TURNS AND REVEALS HIS SECRETS TO THE WORLD, WE WON'T HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO IT."

I BELIEVE THE AGE-OLD "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" IS OUR BEST COURSE OF ACTION HERE.
ONE TEAM TO RETRIEVE SCANNER, AND THE OTHER CAPTURES DOCTOR MONEV.

AND I KNOW JUST THE TWO TEAMS TO SEND...

=GASP=
DAMN THING IS TOO TIGHT...

OH, MAN, CLUTCH BUDDY...
WHAT DID YOU GET YOURSELF INTO NOW...?
TO BE CONTINUED...

Hello readers!

As you know, I'm not usually the one writing in these books. But I often get asked about the new G.I. Joe designs, and my thought process behind them, so I thought I'd give you all a quick rundown of my approach.

As soon as I signed on for G.I. JOE, I knew redesigning the team would be my first big task. Each new iteration of G.I. Joe has its own designs that help them stand out from one another, and it was important to us to have our own set of unique looks for the Energon Universe. This didn't mean ignoring what came before, as G.I. Joe has a history of great design work across toys, comics, animation and film. For this version of the Joes, I took elements from all of these sources, to varying degrees. Some characters took more inspiration from the classic cartoon, some from the new Classified figures on shelves today, and some even from the live action *Rise of Cobra* and *Retaliation* films. And in keeping with G.I. Joe tradition, there's a fair bit of real world inspiration for their weapons and gear as well, which helped update several characters whose designs were heavily reliant on equipment from the 70s and 80s.

I took this same approach with Cobra, but with more outlandish reference points. Varying sources like professional wrestling, sports uniforms, Napoleonic dress, medieval armor, and even straight up science fiction were used as inspiration for the larger than life Cobra designs. They're more tapped into the stranger parts of the Energon Universe, and I wanted their designs to reflect that when contrasted with the Joes, who have a more grounded design overall.

I could talk shop for another several pages, but I'm going to wrap it up here. At the end of the day, I tried to be respectful to the visual history of each of these characters, while at the same time give readers an upgraded, fresh take. It's been awesome to see your response to these designs, and I wanted to thank you all for your enthusiasm. I hope you continue to enjoy what we have in store for you, there's many more new visual takes on characters to come.

Tom Reilly
Rhode Island
November 2024

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I'M WITH #TEAMJOE

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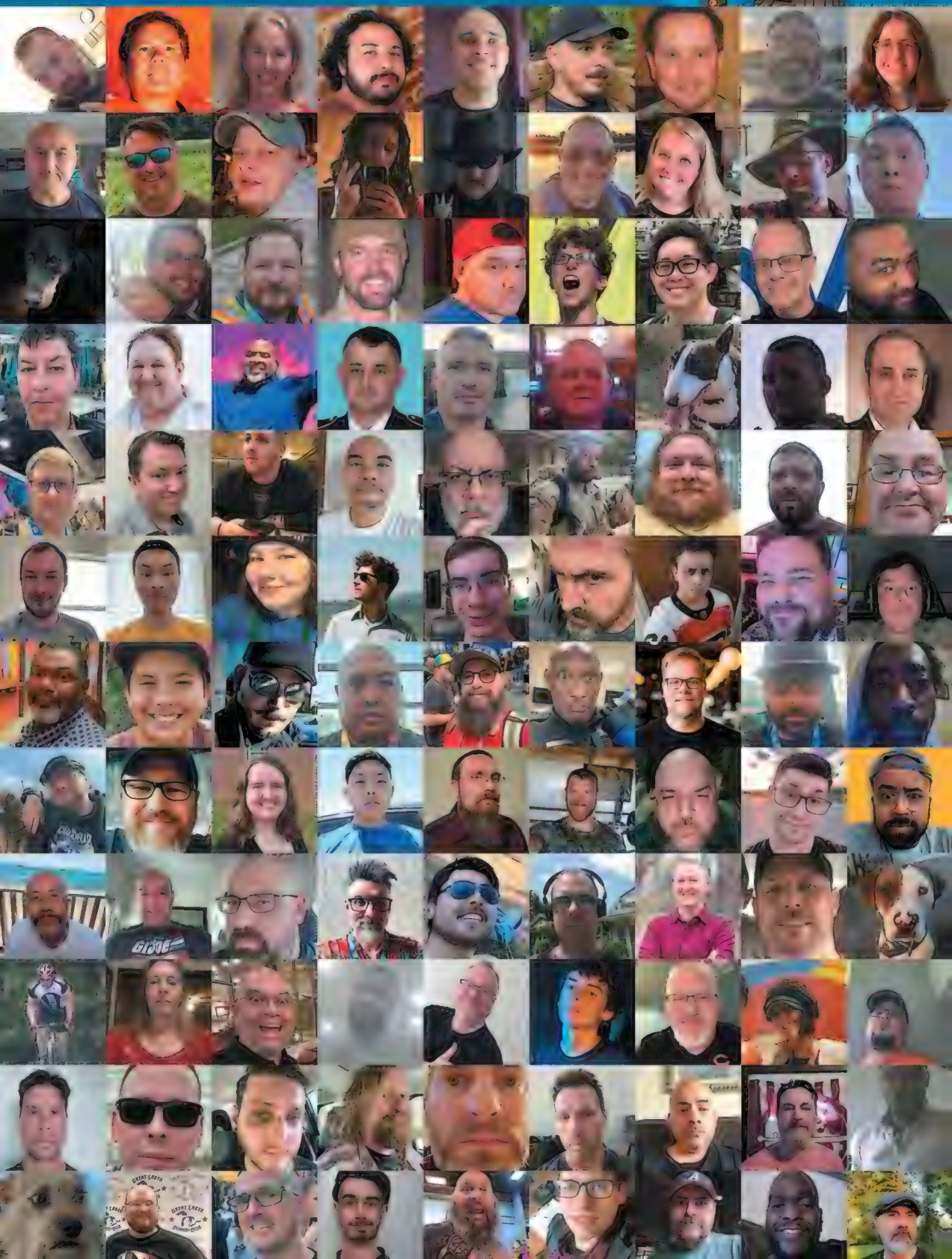

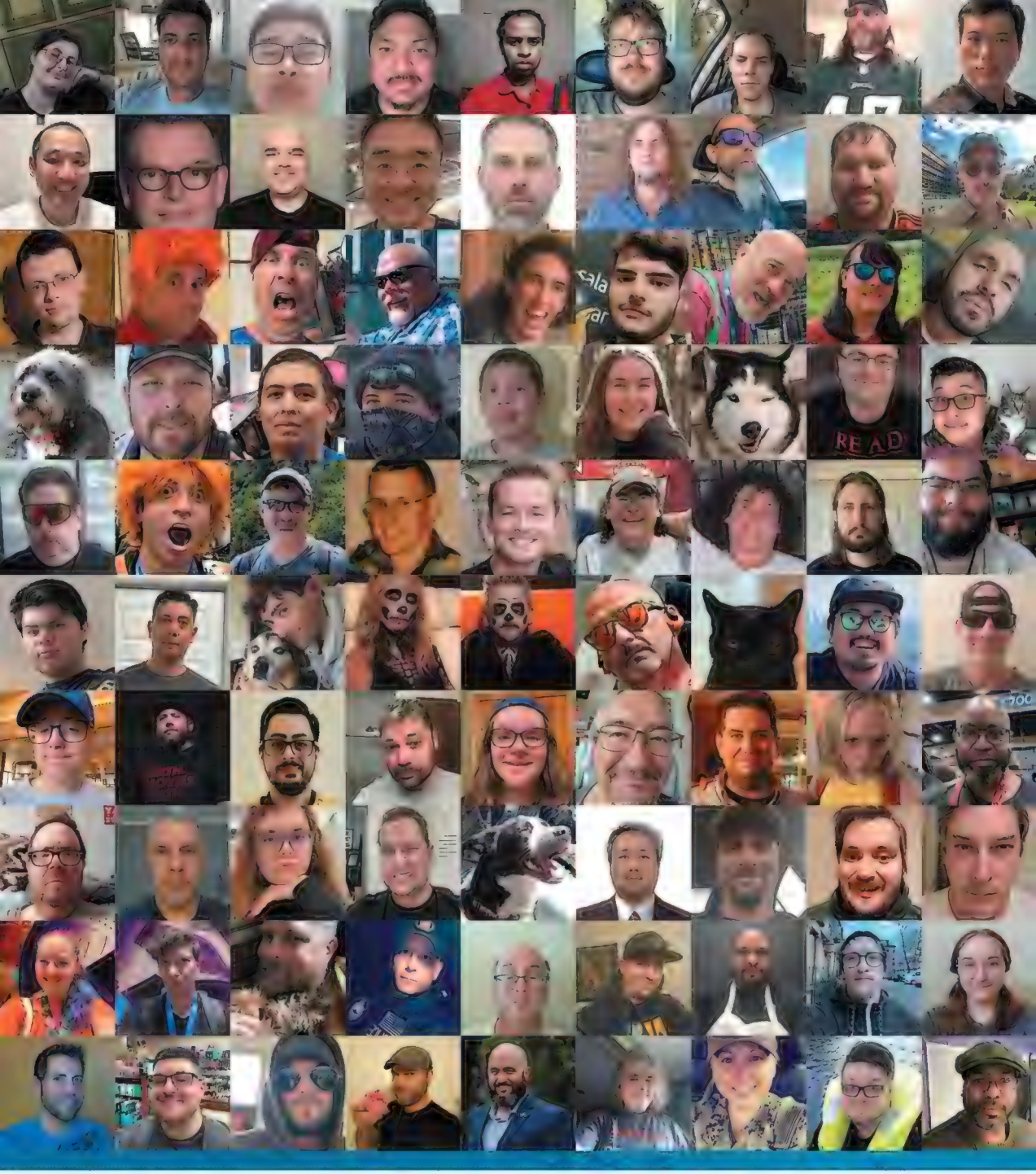

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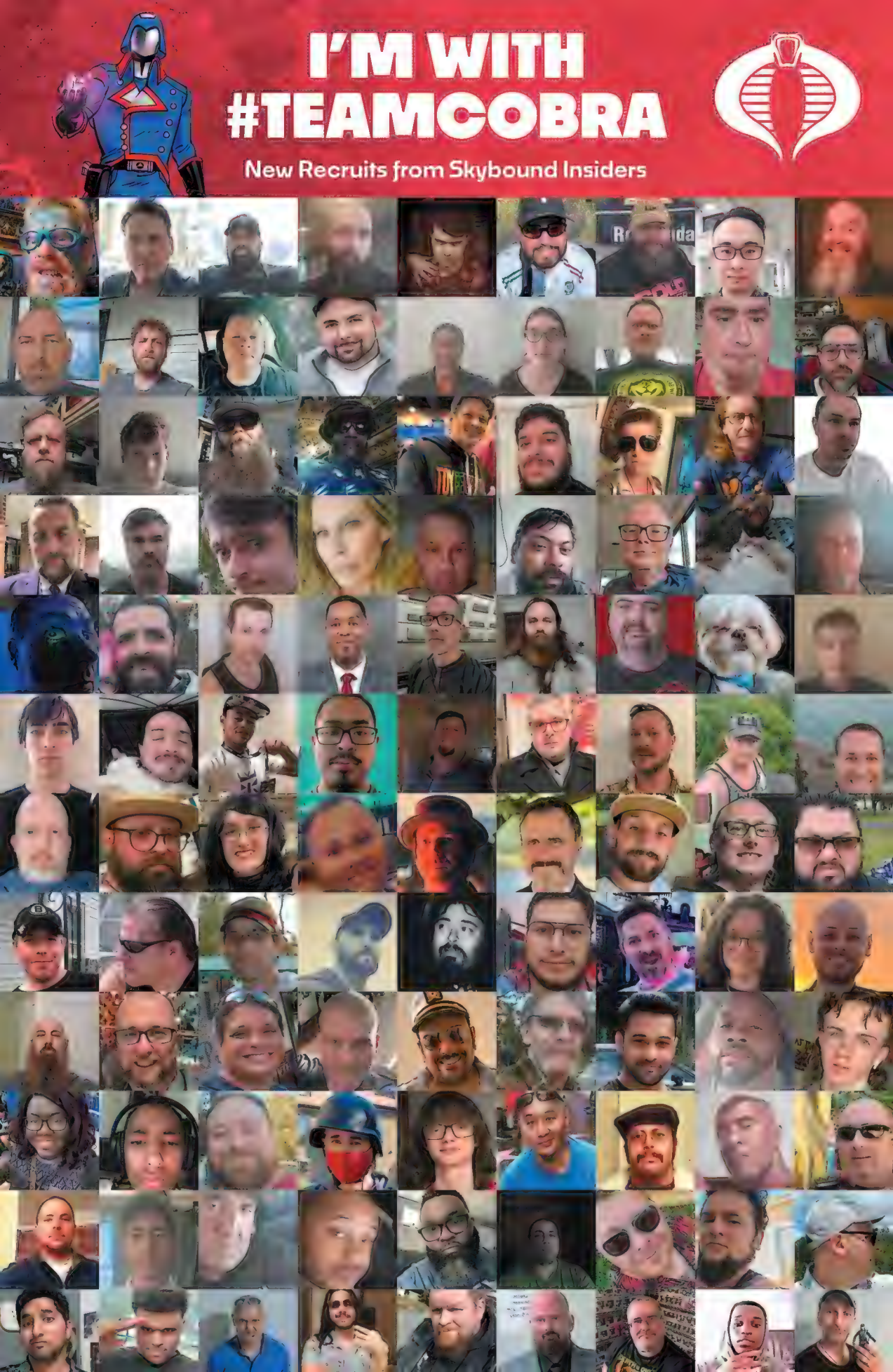
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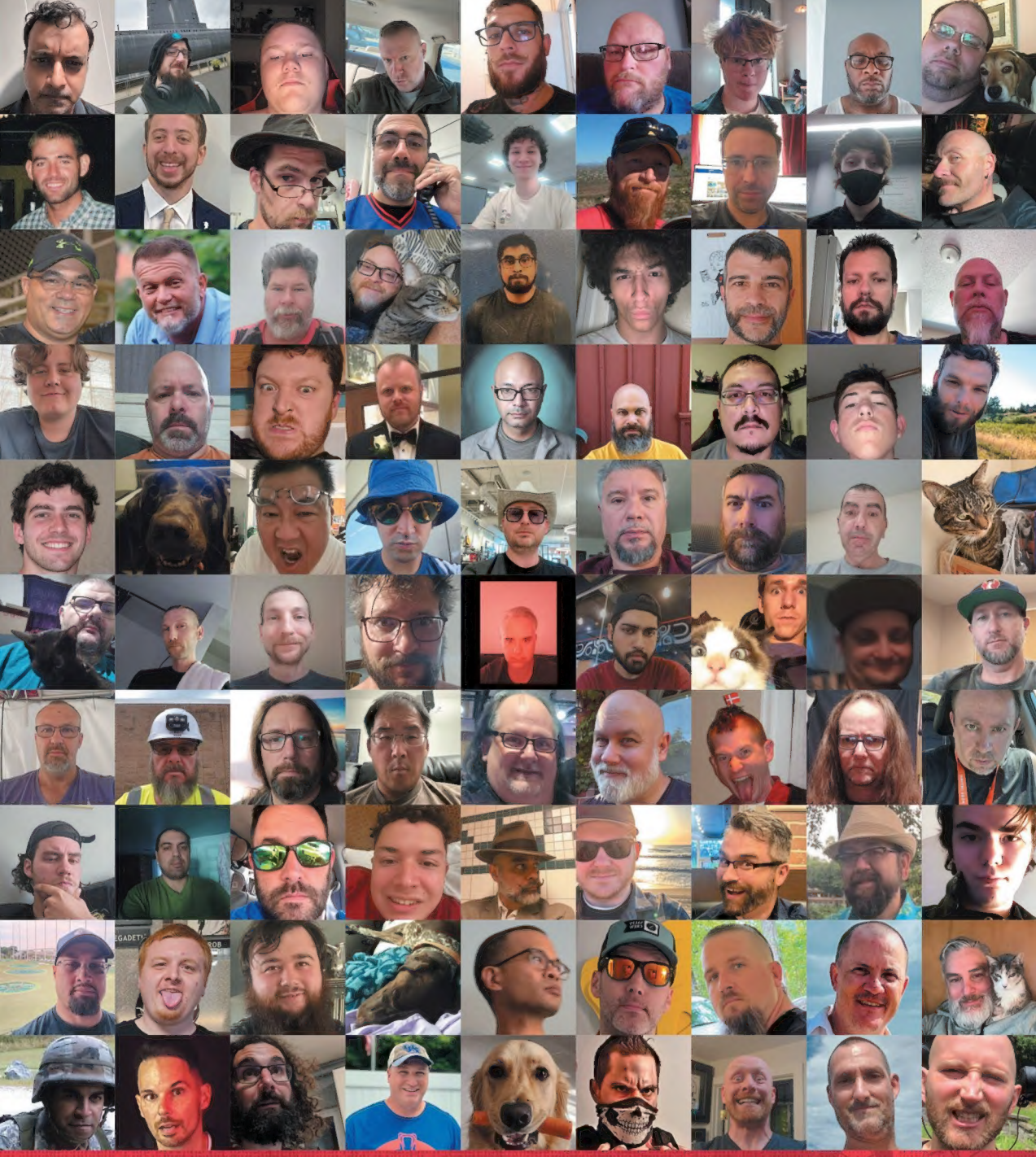

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